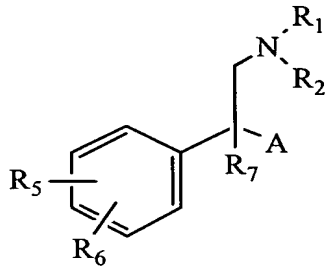
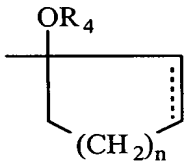
What is Claimed

1. A method of treating bulimia nervosa in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



in which A is a moiety of the formula



wherein

the dotted line represents optional unsaturation;

R1 is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

R_2 is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

R_4 is hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, formyl, or alkanol of 2 to 7 carbon atoms;

R_5 and R_6 are, independently, hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanoyloxy of 2 to 7 carbon atoms, cyano, nitro, alkylmercapto of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, amino, alkylamino of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, dialkylamino in which each alkyl group is of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanamido of 2 to 7 carbon atoms, halo, trifluoromethyl, or taken together, methylene dioxy;

R_7 is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms; and

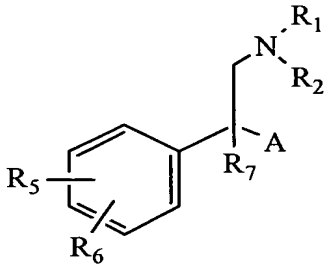
n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

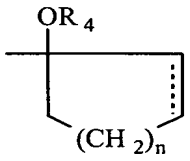
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the composition is administered orally.

4. A method of treating bulimia nervosa in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



in which A is a moiety of the formula



wherein

the dotted line represents optional unsaturation, and

R_1 is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

R_2 is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

R_4 is hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, formyl, or alkanol of 2 to 7 carbon atoms;

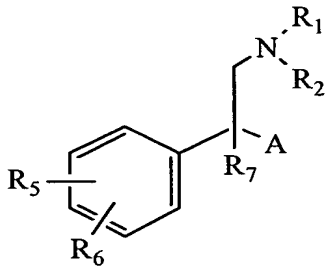
R_5 and R_6 are, independently, hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanoyloxy of 2 to 7 carbon atoms, cyano, nitro, alkylmercapto of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, amino, alkylamino of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, dialkylamino in which each alkyl group is of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanamido of 2 to 7 carbon atoms, halo, trifluoromethyl, or taken together, methylene dioxy;

R_7 is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms; and

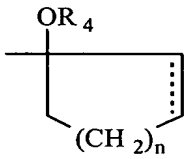
n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the compound is:



in which A is a moiety of the formula



wherein

the dotted line represents optional unsaturation, and

R_1 is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

R_2 is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

R_5 is hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkoxy of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, chloro, bromo, trifluoromethyl or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

R_6 is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, chloro, bromo, trifluoromethyl or alkanoyloxy of 2 to 3 carbon atoms;

R_7 is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein R_5 and R_6 are both in the meta positions or one of R_5 or R_6 is in the para position and n is 2.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1-[(2-dimethylamino)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]cyclohexanol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1-[2-(dimethylamino)-1-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]cyclohexanol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the effective amount comprises a daily dose of between about 50 mg/day and about 375 mg/day.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the effective amount comprises a daily dose of between about 75 mg/day and about 200 mg/day.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered orally.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is in a unit dosage form which is a tablet.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is in a unit dosage form which is a capsule.